

# SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

 **EPA**  
**REGION 6**

ARKWOOD SITE near Omaha, Arkansas  
Remedial Investigation - Phase I

June 1989

## INTRODUCTION

The Arkwood Superfund site is located in Boone County southwest of Omaha, Arkansas. From 1961 until the mid-1980's, it was the location of a creosote wood treatment facility. Problems apparently stemming from the site were reported when detectable levels of pentachlorophenol (PCP) were found in two springs and three domestic wells in the immediate area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed that the site be added to the National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites in 1985. On March 31, 1989, the site was formally added to the NPL.

Phase I of the Remedial Investigation to determine the nature and extent of the contamination is complete. A brief summary of the results of Phase I is included in this fact sheet, along with:

- a schedule of upcoming site activities,
- an explanation of the Superfund process,
- and additional sources of information.

## RESULTS OF PHASE I

ERM-Southwest, Incorporated, on behalf of Mass Merchandisers, Incorporated (MMI) completed phase I of the remedial investigation study at the Arkwood site. The objectives of Phase I were to (1) summarize and evaluate existing data; (2) collect additional data necessary to characterize the extent of affected soils and ground water; and provide necessary data to support the endangerment assessment and feasibility study.

A comprehensive program of soil borings and well and spring sampling events provided analytical data to characterize effects of the wood treating chemicals on the site and surrounding area.

### Water Wells and Springs

A field survey was conducted of all domestic and municipal water wells within a 1-1/2 mile radius of the site. A total of 38 wells were identified initially, three of which turned out to actually be springs. Fifteen wells were selected and sampled at various intervals. Results from these samples indicated that no site related contaminants were found in the wells.

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Six additional monitoring wells were installed to further characterize the possible affects of the site.

Thirteen springs were selected for sampling, including New and Old Cricket Springs. Results of sampling at various intervals indicated that only one spring, New Cricket Spring, showed any site-related contamination.

#### Surface Water

Surface drainage at the site flows primarily towards the northwest. While the site was in operation, drainage ditches were dug along the edges of the site. These ditches converge at the drainage culvert near the ash pile. Other site run-off flows under the site entrance gate. Samples were taken from the south end of drainage culvert, near the entrance gate and the southeast end of the railroad tunnel. Results indicated that no contamination was present in run-off from the site.

Samples were also taken in Walnut Creek and Cricket Creek which indicated that these were not contaminated by the site.

#### Soil and Sediments

Numerous soil and sediment samples were collected at varying depths and various intervals both on and off the site. The upper six inches of soil onsite appear to be the most contaminated, with the upper five feet having lower levels of contaminants. The most highly affected soils are in the former trolley/treatment area, and the timber storage area.

#### Air Monitoring

Monitoring was conducted during the sampling events to determine if there were organic vapors and/or particulates at the site. During the drilling activities a real-time detector was used to monitor volatile organics. Portable high-volume samplers were set up at the site perimeter to detect particulates.

Air monitoring results indicated that some of the site soil was found to contain organic vapors, but only at very low concentrations. The particulate sampling did not indicate a problem and no further analysis was conducted.

#### SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

An Administrative Order is being prepared that would allow MMI to remove the major source material and take it to an offsite, permitted incinerator. If an acceptable incinerator is located, the removal could take place in late summer.

## SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The 20-acre site is located in an excavated area about 1,000 feet west of U.S. Highway 65, north of Cricket Road.

The site consisted of a millwork shop, a wood treating plant which used PCP and creosote, and a storage yard for the treated wood products prior to sale. The majority of the buildings and tanks at the site have since been removed. There is also a large pile of sawdust and woodchips located in the southeast portion of the site.

The plant site was developed in the early 1900's when the railroad company excavated about 40-50 feet below natural grade to obtain fill dirt for the construction of the railroad embankment. The Arkwood plant was built and started operations at the site in the early 1960's. In 1973, the owner of Arkwood leased the treatment plant and the land to MMI. The facility continued to operate from 1973 until treatment operations ceased in June 1984, at which time MMI sold or removed the remaining inventory and process materials. In January 1985, the lease expired and was not renewed. The plant has not operated since that time.

According to MMI, wastes from the operations were dumped into a sinkhole at the treating plant from the beginning of the operation until 1970. The sinkhole was boarded and covered with a layer of dirt. Waste oils were also placed in a ditch adjacent to the railroad until approximately 1974, when the cost of the chemicals used in the treatment process forced the use of a recovery system and reduced the volume of wastes generated.

Other wastes consisted, in part, of the liquid from washing of the treatment room floor and the equipment. These wastes accumulated in a tank and were then spread over the storage yard to control dust. Based on plant operations during 1970, it is estimated that a minimum of 6,000 to 7,000 pounds of waste per year were generated during the 20+ years of operation.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Documents related to the Arkwood site and the Superfund program are available for review at the Dallas EPA office as well as at the following local repositories:

Omaha Public School Library  
Omaha, Arkansas  
(501) 426-3366

Boone County Library  
221 West Stephenson Avenue  
Harrison, Arkansas  
(501) 741-3665

Boone County Courthouse  
County Clerk's Office  
Harrison, Arkansas  
(501) 741-8428

If you need more information about the site, please call or write to:

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